**Explore Response**

**Of Tuor and his Coming to Gondolin**

The fantasy book Unfinished Tales: Of Tuor and his Coming to Gondolin is written by J.R.R Tolkien and his son Christopher Tolkien. This book is about a man named Tuor who goes on a quest to discover the hidden city of Gondolin. He is assisted by the sea god Ulmo and is guided by an elf named Voronwe. He and Voronwe trek across the land of Beleriand to find the city of Gondolin. Eventually after much hardship and close calls with evil creatures Tuor reaches the gates of Gondolin and is met by Turgon king of Gondolin.

J.R.R Tolkien’s purpose for writing this script is to better explain in detail Tuor’s adventure to reach Gondolin. He briefly touched on it in his older book The Silmarillion. My personal purpose for reading this book was to learn more about Tuor and his journey because I read The Silmarillion and I had many questions about him.

A key character who is very important to this book is the sea god Ulmo. He chose Tuor to be the one who will find the hidden city of Gondolin. He also appointed the elf Voronwe to be his guide after saving Voronwe from drowning in a storm at sea. He’s key to this story because caused the events in the story to happen. A key place in the story is a land called Nevrast. Nevrast is where Tuor meets Ulmo. It is located on the shores of the Sea. Ulmo’s power is strongest near the sea and that is where he decided to meet Tuor.

An organizational feature that really helped me understand this text was the editor notes at the end of the story. It is written by J.R.R Tolkien’s son Christopher. The notes usually explain how the story was written and developed. For example the editor’s notes tell that the notes Tolkien left indicated that this story was supposed to include a description of Gondolin, an explanation of why there was no Queen of Gondolin and that the cloak Ulmo gave to Tuor would disappear when Tuor fulfilled his mission and arrived in Gondolin. The way it was written really helped me to understand how Tolkien developed the story.

I noticed that the author described a machine made by evil orcs. The description was eerily similar to a World War l era tank. He described the machine as iron, and was fuelled by “internal fires”. It could go over difficult obstacles and destroy fortifications. I think Tolkien was influenced by the actual war because he was a second lieutenant in the British army and he experienced the great war first hand.

One question I have about this text is what would happen if Tuor discovered Gondolin without the aid of Ulmo and Voronwe. This is a significant question because the Gondolindrim fiercely protected the hidden entry to the city. They would allow no strangers, good or evil into the city. The only reason Tuor was permitted entry to the city was because he had the favour of the sea god Ulmo. I think Tuor would have been either shot or captured by the elves of Gondolin if he discovered the entrance to Gondolin by himself.